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MIN. OF HEALTH
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ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Monk Street,
Abergavenny.
August, 1941.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Miss Sayce and Gentlemen,

As directed by the Ministry and Welsh Board of Health, I am submitting a brief interim report for the year 1940; dealing with the most essential matters of public health and sanitation in your district.

I. BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN 1940

Number of Births.....	118
" " Deaths.....	109
" " Stillbirths.....	10
" " Infant Deaths..... (Under one year of age)	7

Estimated Birth rate.....	13.7
" Death rate.....	12.7
Infant mortality rate.....	59.3

II. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Number Notified	Number treated in Hospital	Number of Deaths
Diphtheria	7	7	1
Scarlet Fever	25	10	Nil
Whooping Cough	7	Nil	Nil
Measles	16	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	1	1	Nil
Paratyphoid	1	Nil	Nil

Though the number of cases of measles and whooping cough notified is probably less than the actual number that occurred the reports received from teachers in the area show that there was no serious epidemic among the schoolchildren.

III. TUBERCULOSIS

Total no. of cases notified during 1940...12 (2 Mon. Mental Hospital)

Pulmonary cases..... 8
Non-pulmonary cases..... 4

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis..... 1 (Pulmonary)

IV. GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

On 2nd June, 1940 429 schoolchildren from Folkestone were evacuated to the Rural District accompanied by 33 adults. All these children had been medically inspected before arrival and, with few exceptions, were clean and healthy; so that any rebilleting which took place was, in most cases, to facilitate grouping them together for teaching purposes. On December 31st, 1940 there were 508 unaccompanied children; 32 mothers with 43 accompanied children; and, 54 adults billeted in the Rural District under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

The number of Birmingham children who have returned to their homes is regrettable, but compares very favourably with returns in other areas. There is no doubt that the general health and stamina of the Birmingham children has improved tremendously; and the number of cases of scabies and impetigo has lessened each month.

V. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Housing

By the end of April, 1940 the twenty houses at the Mardy were completed and tenants from overcrowded or dilapidated houses moved in to them at the beginning of May. This freed a number of houses in Llantilio Pertholey for repairs or reconditioning.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority on 31st Dec. 1940.....70
" " " in course of erection.....Nil
" " " for which sanction had been given but which had not been commenced because of wartime restrictions.....38

Number of houses erected during 1940.....24
By private enterprise..... 4
By Local Authority.....20

Number of dwelling houses inspected for defects....43
" " " " repaired as a result of informal action by Local Authority or its officers..... 7
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....23

(b) Water Supply

By the end of 1940 the Llanvihangel Crucorney Water Scheme was practically completed, and twenty-five connections to the main had been made. Branches from the main had been taken across the Old Hereford Road and the Llanthony Road to supply all property in those areas requiring a supply. The only important work unfinished by December 1940 was the crossing of the main Hereford Road at Pandy; for which sanction had to be obtained from the Trunk Road Surveyor.

At Pwlldu an adit was driven a distance of 40 yards into the mountainside, tapping a main spring in the rock. This was conveyed to a 400 gallon tank and connected to the 1½ inch Pwlldu main.

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At Garnddyrys a small storage tank was built near the source of the spring and water conveyed from there by 240 yards of 1 inch piping to the Garnddyrys Cottages.

At Llanvetherine the water supply was improved by taking a pipe line from the stand pipe near the Baptist Chapel to near the Vine Tree Inn.

At Llanwenarth Citra an adit was driven 20 yards into the hillside to tap the main spring at its source. A small storage tank was fixed near the roadside and the existing mains connected to it.

A number of minor improvements have been made on supplies elsewhere. Twenty-one samples of water from a number of sources were collected and submitted to the County Pathologist for examination.

(c) Milk Supply

Systematic examination of dairies and cowsheds was carried out, and 25 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst. A sample of Grade A T.T. milk from Coldbrook Home Farm was submitted to the County Pathologist each month.

(d) Meat Inspection

No animals were slaughtered in the Rural District - all slaughtering is carried out at the Abergavenny abattoir.

(e) Refuse Collection

The only extension in refuse collection was the inclusion of Great Oak in the fortnightly collection.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS,

Medical Officer of Health.